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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 07BERN171, IRAN: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES "THE SWISS PLAN" WITH \

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags #cablegate and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #07BERN171.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">07BERN171</a>	2007-02-23 14:46	2011-08-30 01:44	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	Embassy Bern

Appears in these articles:

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OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHKUK  
DE RUEHSW #0171/01 0541446  
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O 231446Z FEB 07  
FM AMEMBASSY BERN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3721  
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
  
97841 2007-02-23 14:46:00 07BERN171 Embassy Bern CONFIDENTIAL 07BERN158 VZCZCXRO6253\  
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TAGS: [PARM](#) [KNNP](#) [PTER](#) [ETTC](#) [IR](#) [SZ](#)  
SUBJECT: IRAN: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES "THE SWISS PLAN" WITH \  
PRESIDENT CALMY-REY \  
\  
REF: BERN 00158 \

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Classified By: DCM Carol Urban, Reasons 1.4 b.d. \

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1.(SBU) The Ambassador met with President and Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey on February 22. Although the two had met and talked informally on several occasions since the Ambassador,s arrival in Switzerland last September, this was their first official meeting. Calmy-Rey,s Diplomatic Advisor Balzaretti and Americas Division Chief Baumann, as well as DCM Urban, joined the meeting. \

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2.(SBU) Calmy-Rey began the meeting by expressing her personal satisfaction in successfully encouraging the Federal Council (Cabinet) in 2005 to broaden Switzerland,s perspective beyond the EU and in the fact that the first MOU on political cooperation Switzerland signed was with the U.S. \ The Ambassador and Calmy-Rey then briefly discussed the status of the MOU, the Operative Working Arrangement and the Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum. The Ambassador told Calmy-Rey of the strong relationship that he has developed with Ambassador Ziswiler and of their mutual goal to double the annual number of Fulbright grantees. After touching on the challenges both Switzerland and the U.S. face in dealing with agriculture in the Doha talks, the Ambassador asked to speak candidly and in good faith about two matters of importance: the image of the U.S. in Switzerland and the Iran nuclear issue. \

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The Image of the U.S. in Switzerland \----- --- \

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3.(C) The Ambassador carefully expressed his concern that the U.S. is constantly criticized in the Swiss media and only rarely is there recognition of the good things the U.S. does or that our two countries do together. He invited Calmy-Rey to work with us to find ways to get out the good news. \

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4.(C) Calmy-Rey noted that Switzerland relies on international law and that is often the source of its differences with the U.S., Iraq and Guantanamo being the two most obvious examples. She added that there are many areas where we are in agreement and usefully work together. She referred to the MOU as a positive story that didn,t get the hoped-for media coverage, but cited the successful partnership between Switzerland and the U.S. on the MDA as a story that was reflected positively in the media. She noted that, "Switzerland can do things the EU can,t -- we can be useful in that regard," and added that Kosovo and Sudan were areas where our two countries could successfully work together and let it be known. \

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Iran \----- \

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5.(C) Turning to Iran, Calmy-Rey said that Switzerland and the U.S. share the same goals, that Switzerland is supporting UNSC 1737, and that the goal of the Swiss plan is to bring the parties to the table. She also noted that Under Secretary Burns told State Secretary Ambuehl that he welcomed \

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working closely with Switzerland on Iran. \

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6.(C) Calmy-Rey went on to say she had been very upset with the Iranian press release that said Switzerland had proposed partial suspension. "We do not support partial suspension and I told Larijani: we are out if you say we do." She emphasized that the Swiss have been very insistent that the Iranians suspend enrichment and fulfill their obligations to the IAEA. She assured the Ambassador that the Swiss are firm that there is no way for the Iranians around suspension. And she made the point that Switzerland is not being "instrumentalized" by the Iranians but, rather, they are having tough and difficult conversations with Larijani. "Switzerland is a credible partner. I think if we talk with them we can make some progress," she concluded. \

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7.(C) The Ambassador responded by acknowledging that Switzerland plays an important role as our protecting power \

for which we are very grateful. He said that the U.S. is \\ ready to sit down with the Iranians, but they must come to \\ the table in good faith by first suspending enrichment. He \\ added that while it is good that the Swiss have been firm \\ with the Iranians on suspension, now would be a good time for \\ silence. Iran knows what it needs to do. We need to be \\ resolute and stand together, and we have a better chance of \\ succeeding through tougher sanctions and not sending signals \\ that could be misinterpreted by the Iranians, the media or \\ anyone else. \\

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8.(C) In reply Calmy-Rey said that the Iranians are not yet \\ convinced that they must suspend enrichment. They must be \\ convinced. "If we are silent, they won't get it." The \\ Ambassador counter-proposed, "If Switzerland is silent all of \\ a sudden, Iran will wonder what that means. And that could be \\ good." \\

9.(C) Calmy-Rey reiterated that Iran must be transparent; \\ must answer to the IAEA, and must suspend enrichment. She \\ said there is much to discuss with them and that U/S Burns \\ said he wants to work even more closely with Switzerland. \\ She added that the Swiss always inform the Embassy of their \\ discussions, and that they inform the EU-3, and the others \\ (i.e., Russia and China), as well. "And we tell the Iranians \\ that we are informing you." \\

10.(C) The Ambassador promised to clarify U/S Burns, \\ communications with State Secretary Ambuehl and give the \\ Swiss something in writing. He expressed concern that the \\ Iranians might assume that the US is encouraging \\ Switzerland's discussions with them "by virtue of the fact \\ that you are keeping us informed," and that the media and the \\ Iranians may not understand the separation between the Swiss \\ role as our protecting power in Tehran and its independent, \\ proactive discussions with them on the nuclear issue. \\

CONEWAY \\